# Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy

## Annual Report
## June 1990 – June 1991

92-05989/

# Introduction

In 1990–91 the Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy has been very active in furthering its commitment to setting a path for sustainable development in Nova Scotia. During the last year the Round Table has sought public opinions on issues related to a Sustainable Development Strategy, developed ideas on how to improve public participation in government decision-making, and surveyed education programs in the province related to the environment and the economy.

One notable development made in the past year has been the appointment of Premier Donald W. Cameron as co-chair of the Round Table. This appointment demonstrates an increased commitment on the part of the provincial government and amplifies the priority and profile given to the Round Table. The private sector and non-government organizations significantly increased their support through the appointment of five members to the Round Table, bringing membership to 24.

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# Meetings from June 1990 to June 1991

### June 19, 1990

Discussions took place on developing a unique strategy to foster the principles of sustainable development, stressing the need to maximize public input.

### September 18 & 19

Featured a presentation on Sunship Earth, a children's camp for increasing awareness and appreciation for nature, a presentation by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy on their education initiatives, a presentation on the Sable Island Ecosystems, a presentation by the Department of Lands and Forests, and a presentation by Stephen Manley on the effects of past and current forestry practices in Nova Scotia.

### February 19, 1991

Highlighted a briefing on the federal Green Plan, the Canada/Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Sustainable Development, and the appointment of Premier Donald W. Cameron as co-chair of the Round Table.

### April 9, 1991

Focused on reviewing the first draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy, a presentation on the Economic Strategy for Nova Scotia and a short talk on a multi-jurisdictional planning exercise in the Bras d'Or Lakes.

# Steering Committee

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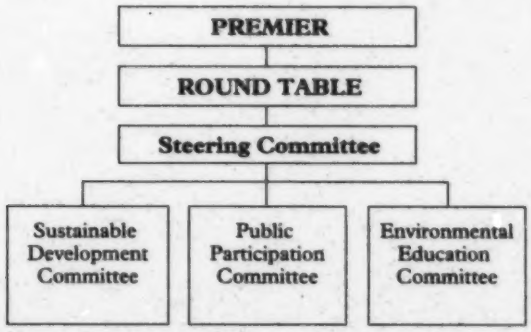
|---|---|
| Hon. John G. Leefe, Chair | *Co-Chair of Round Table* |
| Susan Holtz | *Vice-Chair of Round Table* |
| Murray Coolican | *Member of Round Table* |
| Wayne J. Grady | *Deputy Minister of Environment* |
| Peter C. Underwood | *Executive Director of Round Table* |
| Gerald K. Porter | *Secretariat of Round Table* |



# Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy

## Membership

Chairs:

| | |
|---|---|
| Hon. Donald W. Cameron | *Premier of Nova Scotia* |
| Hon. John G. Leefe | *Minister of Environment* |

Vice Chair:

| | |
|---|---|
| Susan Holtz | *Environmental Consultant* |

Members:

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|---|---|
| William L. Mundle | *Drilling Limited* |
| Dr. Donald E. Curren | *Former Chairman, Human Rights Commission* |
| John Patrick Vissers | *Former President, N.S. Federation of Agriculture* |
| Dr. Donald G. Dodds | *Cervid Consulting* |
| Hon. Charles W. MacNeil | *Minister of Natural Resources* |
| Mayor Douglas Carter | *Town of Truro* |
| Murray Coolican | *Outdoor Land Company* |
| Terry F. MacDonald | *Nova Scotia Power Corporation* |
| Hon. George Archibald | *Minister of Agriculture and Marketing* |
| Dr. Pat Lane | *P. Lane and Associates* |
| Kathryn Heckman | *Planning and Environmental Law Consultant* |
| Hon. Tom J. McInnis | *Deputy Premier, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology* |
| Dr. Ruth Schneider | *Centre for International Studies* |
| Dennis Grant | *Canadian Paperworkers Union* |
| Alan Chaddock | *Artist* |
| Colin Stewart | *Environmentalist* |
| Maureen Yeadon | *National Sea Products* |
| Chief Daniel Paul | *Confederacy of Mainland Micmacs* |
| Christopher Clarke | *Bowater Mersey Paper Company* |
| Robert P. Radchuck | *Peat Marwick Thorne* |
| Dr. Jeffrey Wright | *National Research Council* |

## Co-ordination:

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|---|---|
| Peter C. Underwood | *Executive Director* |
| Gerald K. Porter | *Provincial Coordinator, Secretariat* |

# Sustainable Development Committee

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|---|---|
| Murray Coolican, Chair | *Member of Round Table* |
| Audrey Manzer, Vice Chair | *Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board* |
| John Vissers | *Member of Round Table* |
| Kathryn Heckman | *Member of Round Table* |
| Bill Mundle | *Member of Round Table* |
| Creighton Brisco | *Department of the Environment* |
| Anne Muecke Griffiths | *Griffiths, Muecke Associates* |
| Colin Stewart | *Member of Round Table* |
| Dr. Donald E. Curren | *Member of Round Table* |
| Dr. Gordon Beanlands | *Dalhousie University* |
| Gerald K. Porter | *Ex-Officio* |
| Gary S. Porter | *Secretariat* |

# Public Participation Committee

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|---|---|
| Susan Holtz, Chair | *Vice-Chair of Round Table* |
| Leslie Griffiths | *Griffiths, Muecke Associates* |
| David Hopper | *Department of Natural Resources* |
| Gillian Allen | *Consultant* |
| David VanderZwaag | *Dalhousie Law School* |
| Mil Nickerson | *Tusket River Environmental Protection Agency* |
| Gerald K. Porter | *Ex-Officio* |
| Gary S. Porter | *Secretariat* |

# Environmental/Sustainable Development Education Committee

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|---|---|
| Dr. Jeffrey Wright, Chair | *Member of Round Table* |
| Dr. Clair Callaghan | *Allac Consultants* |
| Dr. Warwick Kimmins | *Dalhousie University, Dean of Science* |
| John Stone | *Department of Education* |
| George Taylor | *City of Halifax Recreation Department* |
| Dr. Nancy VanWagoner | *Acadia University, Geology Department* |
| Alan Chaddock | *Member of Round Table* |
| Bob LeBlanc | *Department of Education* |
| Gerald K. Porter | *Ex-Officio* |
| Lee Lewis | *Secretariat* |

# Committee Reports

## Sustainable Development Committee

Over the past year, the committee has designed a process to develop a Sustainable Development Strategy for Nova Scotia. In achieving this, the process has focused very heavily on public participation and a multi-faceted approach.

In beginning the process, the committee developed a communications package to seek public views on critical issues the strategy must address. The package, entitled *Environment, Economy and You*, included:

> *an introduction describing the purpose of the strategy, the concept of sustainable development, and stimulating ideas about what might go into the strategy;*
>
> *several one-page "issue sheets" outlining a number of critical issues in the province. The titles of these sheets reflect the issues covered: Water Resources, Mineral Resources, Soil Resources, Shellfish, Waste Management, and Forest Resources.*
>
> *a four-page questionnaire related to some of the issues that should be addressed in a Sustainable Development Strategy.*

The committee received 345 responses to the questionnaire, approximately 10 per cent of the overall quantity distributed through a target mailing and by request. A toll-free telephone number had been established to increase the opportunity for people to receive a copy. Taking public input into account, the committee has met on numerous occasions to discuss and to develop the draft document. The draft is expected to be submitted to the Round Table on August 1st and 2nd, 1991.

Following approval of the draft strategy by the Round Table, the next stage of public consultation will begin. This stage, tentatively scheduled for October 1991, will provide all sectors of society with an opportunity to participate through visual displays in public places, invitation for written submission and public workshops across the province. The committee has also encouraged the establishment of local/municipal round tables, which could prove to be advantageous in dealing with local problems and by providing an additional mechanism for input into a provincial Sustainable Development Strategy.

## Public Participation Committee

The committee's mandate is to improve opportunities for public participation in government decision making and in decisions by the private sector that affect communities and local environments. Over the past year, the committee focused on the public sector. In this initiative the committee administered the development of a consultant report entitled *Channels for Public Input into Government Decision-making in Nova Scotia*, planned to be complete for release in the summer of 1991. Public input, through short written briefs, had been received on the topic and these briefs were considered in the committee's deliberations.

In addition to the study on existing opportunities for public involvement, the committee deliberated at length on questions concerning the funding of intervenors in environmental assessment processes. To pursue this issue in greater depth, the committee developed terms of reference for a consultant study on intervenor funding. This study is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1991 and to be completed in the fall. The study will focus on the mechanisms and applicability of intervenor funding in Nova Scotia.

The committee has also been responsible for the publication of a Directory of Employees for the provincial Department of Environment. The directory contains names, responsibilities, addresses and telephone numbers of all employees of the Department. Copies of the document have been sent to environmental groups and public libraries in the province. Additional copies may be obtained at the Department of the Environment, P.O. Box 2107, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3B7, (902) 424-5300.

## Environmental Education Committee

The committee has been charged with recommending changes to the public school curricula related to matters of sustainable development and environmental education. In working toward their mandate the committee has been responsible for the preparation of a consultant study that identified existing environment-related education programs and activity in the public and private sector. The committee is now deliberating upon recommendations to the Round Table on changes to the curricula.